



Meet the artists
of Cellar Roots
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The Eastern Echo

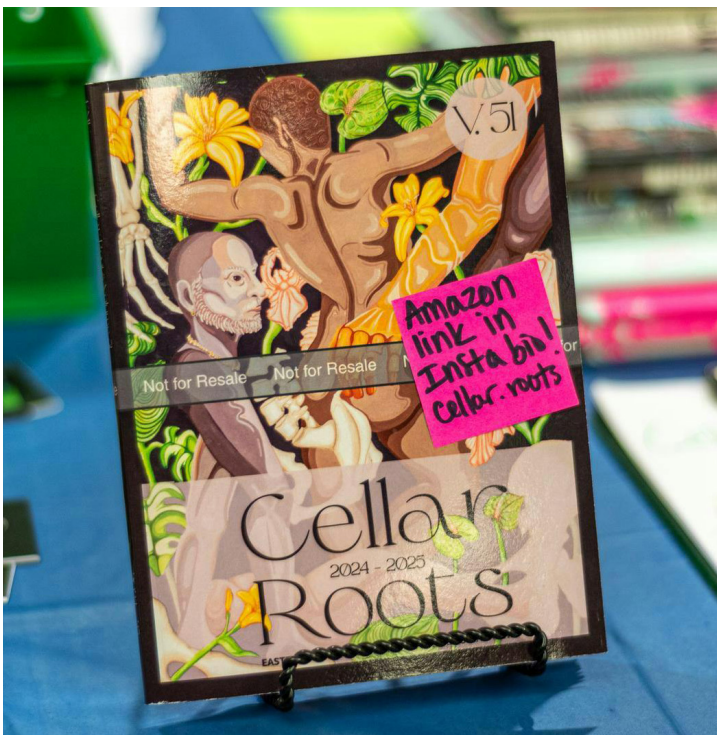
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Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

Cellar Roots celebrates launch of 51st volume of student art magazine

Gabriella Payeur
News Reporter
Ameera Salman
Editor-in-Chief

The annual edition of Cellar Roots, Eastern Michigan University’s Fine Arts Magazine, is now available. Cellar Roots compiles student-submitted multi-discipline works, including photographs, poetry, prose and artwork. Editor-in-Chief Madison Cantrell said that the design for this volume aimed to accentuate the work of artist Clara Engel, whose piece “Mother Nature” is featured on the front cover. Lead Graphic Designer Laurence Bourdeau discussed his hopes for the design of this edition. “I had a vision of it being cool, exciting and different, but not getting in the way of the work itself that was put in by the artists,” Bourdeau said. A jury votes on submissions based on their category: poetry/prose, photography/digital, 2D media, and 3D media. Each category has three jurors, including EMU students, professors and local artists. This year, poetry/prose jurors are Aryana Jharia, Molly Pershin Raynor and Ameera Salman. Photography/digital jurors are Madison Cantrell, Takeisha Jefferson and Chris Reilly. 2D media jurors are Nia Crutcher, Brian Spolans and Lisse Williams, and 3D media jurors are Margeaux Claude, John DeHoog and Kristen Holsworth. Editions are available for \$20 on Amazon, or students can email



The latest edition of Cellar Roots featured at EagleCon 2025 on Tuesday, March 18 at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center. Max Taylor/The Eastern Echo

cellarroots@easternecho.com to schedule a pickup of their copy. All sales from the yearly magazine help pay for publishing costs and general operating expenses. Cellar Roots operates as a student organization at EMU, and to encourage people to join, Cellar Roots gets involved on and off campus. Cantrell said that the primary goal of Cellar Roots is to highlight student artists. At Campus Life’s EagleCon, Cellar Roots hosted a collage workshop and sold mystery editions at Handmade for the Holidays. On March 27, 2025, Cellar Roots will join The Eastern Echo at EMU’s Student Media Gala, where copies will be available for purchase at a donation price. On March 29, 2025, they will table at the first annual Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor Zine Jamboree. Both will be located at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. To celebrate the launch of the 51st volume, Cellar Roots has partnered with Intermedia Gallery Group to feature jury-selected works in their Student Center Gallery for the entirety of April. They will host an opening reception on April 3, 2025 from 6 to 9 p.m. in that space, with an open mic happening from 7 to 9 p.m. “I’m excited for these talented artists to see their hard work on display,” Cantrell said. “The EMU art community is vibrant, and I’m honored that I got to facilitate this experience.” Cellar Roots is always looking for new members and interested board members. Students are encouraged to apply for any position that interests them. To apply, email a resume, portfolio and cover letter to cellarroots@easternecho.com.

New York Times bestseller Kristy Montee to join The Echo Hall of Fame

AnnaBelle Favre
News Reporter

On March 27, 2025, The Eastern Echo will induct Kristy Montee, along with two other Echo alumni, into the Echo Hall of Fame during its annual Student Media Gala. Montee is renowned for her contributions to the “golden age of journalism,” including her critique of dance and her success as a New York Times bestselling author of mystery novels. During her freshman year in 1968, Kristy Montee was hired at The Eastern Echo as a reporter. Her first assignment was to cover the University’s student senate meetings.

“I remember my first story was about the student senate trying to legalize beer in the dorms,” Montee said. Montee continued at The Echo throughout her college years, and she graduated as the Managing Editor under Ann Lindner. “I helped to put myself through school by working at The Echo,” Montee said. Although she graduated with a degree in Education, the teaching job market was challenging at the time. Upon her advisor’s suggestion, she pursued journalism instead. “The thought never crossed my mind,” Montee said. “I had four years of experience and a pretty good portfolio, but I had never considered it

as a career.” Montee quickly landed a job as a reporter for The Southfield Eccentric right out of school. She worked at the weekly newspaper for about two years, before moving to Florida to join Fort Lauderdale News in 1974. In 1980, Montee shifted her focus from full-time reporting to writing novels after getting married. She continued freelancing for Fort Lauderdale News while exploring the world of mystery writing. Montee’s big break came when her editor asked if anyone had knowledge of ballet or dance. After taking ballet classes throughout her youth, Montee

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Courtesy of Joe Misiewicz

Retired broadcaster Joe Misiewicz to join The Echo Hall of Fame

Ameera Salman
Editor-in-Chief

Joe Misiewicz, a retired media professor and Echo alum, is set to be inducted into The Eastern Echo Hall of Fame, along two others. Misiewicz worked at The Echo in the late ‘60s during his time as a student at Eastern Michigan University. College was not part of Misiewicz’s plan, but thanks to encouragement from friends, he ended up at EMU. After working as a reporter, Misiewicz was an assistant editor and later served as summer editor. In addition to that work, Misiewicz spent time writing editorials, taking photographs and supporting the layout of the newspaper. After graduation, Misiewicz found success in radio news locally at WEMU, where he became news editor.

He also worked with the EMU Forensics team and was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, where he learned both photography and radio. Later, Misiewicz attended the University of Michigan for his doctorate while he simultaneously taught full-time at EMU and WEMU. “It was kind of a crazy time,” Misiewicz said. During his time in the Reserves, Misiewicz created a radio show that was sent to troops deployed during the Vietnam War. “[The Echo] taught me that there’s more to news than sports,” Misiewicz said. “If I was really talking to troops who were risking their lives over in Vietnam, they needed to hear all about this, not any special focus.”

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Courtesy of Kristy Montee

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

HOW TO REACH US

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Winter 2025
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PICK UP A COPY

Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.

Among those businesses are:





- Sweetwaters on Cross St
- The Golden Egg
- Domino's
- and more!

Want to have copies of The Eastern Echo delivered to your Ypsilanti business? Email advertising@easternecho.com!

CORRECTIONS

In the March 18, 2025 print edition, The Eastern Echo named the wrong positions that Kim Kozlowski held during her time at The Echo. This correction has also been made online.


Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY MARCH 25	WEDNESDAY MARCH 26	THURSDAY MARCH 27	FRIDAY MARCH 28	SATURDAY MARCH 29	SUNDAY MARCH 30	MONDAY MARCH 31
REGISTRATION BLITZ REC/IM GYMNASIUM 11 A.M. - 4 P.M. 	HALLE FIX-IT HUB HALLE LIBRARY ROOM 115 2:30 P.M. - 5 P.M. 	EASTERN ECHO STUDENT MEDIA GALA YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE 7 P.M. 	45TH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM STUDENT CENTER 9 A.M. - 4:15 P.M. 	29TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF ARTISTS IN MICHIGAN PRISONS DUDERSTANDT CENTER 5 P.M. - 9 P.M. 	EMU JAPANESE SPRING FESTIVAL STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 11:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. 	TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY CLOTHING CLOSET STUDENT CENTER ROOM 300 12 P.M. - 5 P.M. 
2025 STUDENT GOLD MEDALLION AWARDS STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. 	"STARS" AT THE EMU PLANETARIUM MARK JEFFERSON ROOM 402 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. 	FLOATS AND FRIENDSHIPS HONORS COLLEGE RECEPTION HALL 3:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. 				

Scoop's Forecast

45°  29° Tuesday, March 25

42°  26° Wednesday, March 26

53°  30° Thursday, March 27

46°  33° Friday, March 28

50°  35° Saturday, March 29

65°  42° Sunday, March 30

56°  29° Monday, March 31



Ypsi gas station plans expansion with electric vehicle chargers

Odelia Florusbosch
News Reporter

Standard Auto Service, a gas station and auto shop in Ypsilanti, Michigan, is planning to conditionally rezone the parcel of land behind the business.

Standard Auto Service is a local business owned by the Musa family. It was established in 1998.

According to Adham Musa, a student at the University of Michigan and the son of the owners of Standard Auto Service, multiple local families, including his own, rely on the business.

“This business is our only source of income. It’s been what I’ve depended on for college education,” said Musa.

In December 2024, the Ypsilanti Township Planning Commission informed the Musa family that they were not following the current site plan. The current site plan involves cutting off part of the sidewalk on the Standard Auto Service lot and planting trees in that space. This would create a discontinuous sidewalk and make some parking spots on the lot difficult to reach.

Instead of the current site plan, the

Musa family hopes to conditionally rezone the parcel of land behind Standard Auto Service. The Musa family has owned that piece of land since 2004, and it is currently zoned as a residential lot.

The Musa family originally planned to fully rezone the land to be a commercial area but realized this would cause the lot to stand on its own as a separate commercial parcel, not part of the Standard Auto Service lot. Conditionally rezoning the lot would allow them to use the lot’s area to expand Standard Auto Service.

With this expansion, the Musa family is planning to build electric vehicle charging stations and expand the parking lot. They would also add additional green space to the lot without disrupting the sidewalk. They believe these changes would benefit their business as well as the Ypsilanti community.

“There’s a dire need for EV charging stations ... The city is really trying to prioritize a walkable, green Ypsilanti, and by providing EV charging stations ... we’re trying to make a local community where [community members] that need [EV charging

stations] can use the service,” said Musa.

The Musa family is currently gathering input from community members on their plan to rezone the parcel of land behind Standard Auto Service before they submit their proposal to the Ypsilanti City Council.



Courtesy of Adham Musa

Ypsilanti lovebirds study robins to find lead levels in soil

Olivia Hendry
Managing Editor

Dorothy Zahor and Kenneth Glynn met at Eastern Michigan University, where they discovered their shared love for urban wildlife. Now, married and graduate students at Oregon State University, they’ve come together to help their communities better understand the potential of higher lead levels in soil. And they’re doing it with a familiar summer sight- the robin.

Zahor was first interested in lead levels in urban soil during her time at EMU. She wanted to see how much lead humans were unknowingly exposed to on a daily basis while in parks and other outdoor spaces.

“Humans and urban wildlife share the same spaces... If they are sharing our space, are they also sharing our pollutant exposure?” Zahor said.

Glynn hopped on the project after Zahor established it, affectionately calling it her “brain child.” It helped that the topics being explored also fell into his realm of interest.

“I was really interested in the interactions between humans and wildlife ... how humans are impacting wildlife, and how we can understand better how wildlife is impacted by us, and hopefully find solutions to help us live more harmoniously,” Glynn said.

They decided to study robins in both Ypsilanti and Flint, and see their differences in blood lead levels. Robins were foragers, so they figured that by searching for worms, they were also ingesting small bits of soil. And they hypothesized that if there was lead in that soil, it would present itself in the robin’s blood.

Flint was chosen specifically because of its ongoing water crisis, which began in April of 2014 when the city changed water sources. This change led to increased levels of lead in the water, affecting the city’s nearly 80,000 residents. There were multiple calls to not drink the water in Flint, but Zahor and Glynn wanted to take it a step further, and look at the places where water was being used outdoors.

“There was not a lot of guidance on irrigating lawns or watering urban park systems or college campuses, so we were interested to see if that’s a route

of exposure of lead into the soil,” Zahor said.

The couple tested sites near the University of Michigan-Flint campus, and on site at EMU.

It turns out, robins that foraged in Flint soil had higher blood lead levels than robins that foraged in Ypsilanti. This led Zahor and Glynn to believe that there were higher levels of lead in Flint soil than there was in Ypsilanti soil, and the lead was close to the surface.

“Robins are only foraging in that top layer, really, so it’s not like the lead was far away from exposure,” Zahor said.

The pair doesn’t believe that higher blood lead levels in robins should sound alarm bells to high blood lead levels in humans. Instead, they encourage people to be conscious while enjoying outdoor activities in urban areas, especially in places like Flint. The pair observed many people out playing frisbee, doing yoga, and playing with pets while they were conducting their research.

“I wouldn’t say it’s necessarily, high levels in robins equals high levels in humans,” Zahor said. “It’s just showing that the lead is at a place where it can be exposed to those who engage with the soil.”

Throughout the project, the pair received a lot of important mentoring from professors in the Biology department.

“I don’t think I could say enough about how amazing the Biology faculty is [at EMU],” Glynn said. “They were very supportive, helped us feel confident in what we were doing, and helped us get to where we are. I don’t think that would’ve happened if we didn’t have that supportive mentorship.”

Both Zahor and Glynn are now working on different projects, however they would be interested in continuing the robin research if funding allowed. No matter the project, the pair enjoys helping each other perform experiments, read drafts, and more.

“There’s always extra hands needed for every project, so it’s nice when I can be like, ‘Hey can you help me?’... so it’s really nice to have this partnership,” Zahor said.

“We’ll help each other all the time ... we work well together, which is awesome,” Glynn said.

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volunteered, leading to her first assignment with *The South Florida Sun-Sentinel*: reviewing the New York Ballet.

After reviewing the biggest dance company in the county, Montee became a regular dance critic for the paper. “It was a golden era for dance those days, because the government was giving money to help dancers tour all around,” Montee said. She rose within *The Sun-Sentinel* to become assistant Managing Editor.

In addition to her freelance work, Montee co-authored the “Louis Kincaid” mystery series with her sister under the pen name P.J. Parrish. The series, which includes thirteen novels, earned a spot on both the New York Times and USA Today bestseller lists. Montee and her sister won numerous accolades, including eleven major crime-fiction awards, an Edgar nomination, two Shamus awards, an Anthony award, and the International Thriller Writers’ competition.

Montee’s love of writing started long before her college years. “I’ve always written, ever since I was a kid. I used to write neighborhood newspapers

Misiewicz went on to teach media at several universities across the United States.

“*[The Echo]* really moved my butt and made me say, ‘Woah,’” Misiewicz said. “This isn’t just about the campus, this isn’t just about listening to the administration - there’s a whole city here.”

In 2012, Misiewicz retired as a teacher from Ball State University, but he still keeps himself busy. Misiewicz hosts a weekly radio show in Muncie, Indiana, as well as works as a consultant.

Misiewicz has pledged an endowment to The Eastern Echo, where he got his start.

“I was never supposed to go to school,” Misiewicz said. “[But EMU] gave me a degree, they gave me two degrees.”

Misiewicz will be inducted into The Echo Hall of Fame alongside Kim Kozlowski and Kristy Montee at the annual Student Media Gala on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The event will be at 7 p.m. at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

The Eastern Echo
Student Media Gala
7 p.m.
Thursday, March 27, 2025
The Ypsilanti Freighthouse

What's the move? March 25-31

Amiya Pillow
Staff Reporter

Registration Blitz - March 25

It’s time to register for classes. The university is helping students plan and register for the upcoming semester with a special event at the REC/IM Gymnasium. It’s a new location for the Registration Blitz, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advising appointments will be between 10 and 15 minutes. Students will have access to free support services. There will be giveaways and raffle prizes!

2025 Student Gold Medallion Awards - March 25

The annual Student Gold Medallion Awards will be held in the Student Center Ballroom from 4 to 6 p.m. This is the time to celebrate all students’ contributions to EMU through programs, activities and services!

Halle Fix-it Hub - March 26

The Halle Library will be hosting the second part of its fix-it series in the Creative Studio of the Halle Library, room 115. Between 2:30 and 5 p.m. participants can take any broken everyday object to the event and learn the process of repair. This event is open to all EMU students, faculty and staff. This event is eligible for learning beyond the classroom credit.

2025 The Eastern Echo and Cellar Roots Student Media Gala - March 27

Three EMU alumni who worked for The Eastern Echo will be inducted into the Eastern Echo Hall of Fame during the Student Media Gala at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the Ypsilanti Freight House. The inductees are longtime Detroit News reporter Kim Kozlowski, former broadcaster and EMU professor Joe Misiewicz and former Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel reporter and editor Kristy Montee, who is also a best-selling mystery author. Student tickets to the event are \$25 and include dinner. Cellar Roots will be selling the latest edition of their magazine. There will be a silent auction and a photo booth at the event. Tickets can be purchased through the university’s online box office. Or use this short link: <https://bit.ly/EchoGala>.

TRUEMU Night with the Detroit Red Wings - March 27

The Detroit Red Wings will be playing against the Ottawa Senators at Little Caesars Arena at 7 p.m. for the TRUEMU Night! All purchased tickets include a co-branded Red Wings/EMU quarter zip and a donation to the EMU Student Emergency Fund. Tickets cost around \$57 and can be purchased online.

45th Annual Undergraduate Symposium - March 28

Join the EMU community in showcasing research and creative projects of undergraduate students from all five colleges at EMU! This annual showcase will be in the Student Center from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and is open to the public. The event is free and is approved for the learning beyond the classroom credit.

29th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons - March 29

Handmade art created by incarcerated artists in Michigan will be showcased between March 18 and April 1 at the Duderstadt Center between 5 and 9 p.m. This event, hosted by the Prison Creative Arts project, is free to the public and will include a variety of creative projects. This event is held to connect those in the free world with those behind bars.

EMU Japanese Spring Festival - March 30

The Japanese Student Association hosts its Spring Festival in the Student Center Grand Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival celebrates Japanese culture through performances and activities. This event is free, open to the public and has been approved for learning beyond the classroom credit.

Trans Day of Visibility Clothing Closet - March 31

From noon to 5 p.m. in room 300 of the Student Center, the LGBT Resource Center, Career Closet and Swoops Pantry will be creating a closet to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility. The event is free, and all students are welcome to attend.

EMU Marching Band Drumline Audition Clinic - March 31

Anyone interested in auditioning for the Fall 2025 Marching Band should attend the audition clinic in the Alexander Music Building from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a free clinic, and students can fill out the membership form using the sign-up link.

Paris Stinson showcases art in Cellar Roots Magazine

Asia O'Quinn
Staff Reporter

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cellar Roots, published annually by the Student Media Team at EMU, released the 51st edition of its arts and literature magazine in late March, 2025. This article, one in a series, focuses on one of the artists whose work was selected for publication.

"If art is a hobby, then why is it offered at universities?" That is what Paris Stinson shares with those questioning her decision to be an art major.

"There's an industry behind art," Stinson said. "There are jobs out there you just have to look for them. Also, look around you, you're surrounded by art. An architect made this building, and every logo has been made by a graphic designer. If you wanted it to be a hobby let it be a hobby. It can be whatever you want it to be."

An Ypsilanti native, Stinson is a senior at Eastern Michigan University. She is co-president of Intermedia Gallery Group, a student-run gallery and artist collective.

Her art piece, "Lick Me," was chosen to be in the 51st edition of Cellar Roots, EMU's annual fine art and literacy magazine. The publication was released to the public in March 2025.

Growing up, Stinson said, she was a theater kid and was always surrounded by art. Her mom was a graphic designer. Her dad was a photographer. As a child, she enjoyed playing with her toys, and because she grew up in Ypsilanti, people around her all wanted to go to an Eastern game or see what was happening on campus. That familiarity led her to choose EMU for her college experience.

At first, Stinson said, she aspired to be an astronomer. During most of her middle and high school career, she

spent her time learning about space. When Stinson arrived at Eastern, she majored in physics. She soon realized she disliked the topic.

"It just wasn't for me," Stinson said. "So, I was like what else am I interested in? It was art."

Stinson said her parents weren't disappointed when she switched her major.

"If anything my parents wanted me to make a lot of money, but they honestly just wanted me to be happy," Stinson said. "They were a bit shocked when I pivoted to art but it wasn't like a 'oh I'm going to disown you' shock."

Because Stinson's parents have a history of making art, they were open to her decision. Stinson used to make doodles of superheroes and comic-like fan art, but never the art she currently produces, which involve more mediums.

During Stinson's time at EMU, she said, she has gained more confidence and learned that it's OK to be outspoken and be yourself. Stinson said there are people who will like you for who you are, and you don't have to cover up your true self.

Stinson said that at first, she found it hard to find people in the art program at EMU who looked like her. When Stinson finally found them, she was relieved to know that there were Black girls around her.

"Being in this program it's predominantly white, so you don't see a lot of Black people," Stinson said. "But my second year, I found my good friend Nia Crutcher and then I met this other girl Kennedé Thomas. So it was kind of a domino effect of finding my people."

Stinson has a few favorites among the artwork she has created. One piece she made about her menstrual cycle titled, "Track My Flow," won in the Annual Juried Student Art Show in March 2024, which was her first show. The medium in this artwork consisted

of acrylic gouache and micron pens colored red-brown on nine pages connected in an irregular line shape.

Stinson's self-portrait, "Lick Me,"

her. Stinson wants to try using fibers or cloth in her artwork because she hasn't before.

"Acrylic dries faster, and with oil

term modern art refers to work and artists from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries.

"There's nothing wrong with modern art, you gotta learn to get where you're going, but I would much rather draw inspiration from people working right now," Stinson said. "And a lot of contemporary artists are Black. That's another thing. I draw inspiration from Black artists because other people don't know how to depict us sometimes."

Stinson said she rarely references other artists because she enjoys coming up with her ideas and doesn't want to get into plagiarism territory.

Picking what art Stinson wanted to submit for Cellar Roots magazine was a difficult task, she said. Stinson said lots of people told her to submit her self-portrait, "Lick Me," and she did along with four others.

"I've made a lot of stuff and art is all about finding your crowd," Stinson said. "So you have somebody telling you that one piece is good and somebody else telling you it's bad, but if you like that's all that matters. I have a bunch of pieces that I personally like."

Paris Stinson's end goal with art is to be a gallery director or an art curator. With her being co-president of Intermedia Gallery Group she said it's training her on how to work in galleries. Stinson said she wants to continue creating art in the future but it would be a side hustle.

"I want more Black people to get in galleries and I feel like with me being in a position of power it's like, 'Hey look at this Black artist working now. Don't they deserve a show? Give them this space,'" Stinson said. "If I had that director title, I would just do so much for Black arts, and that's what I want to do."

Cellar Roots Volume 51 is available for purchase on Amazon or directly from the student media team by emailing cellarroots@easternecho.com.



Courtesy of Paris Stinson

is among her favorites, and was also featured in Nia Crutcher's exhibition, "Black Girl Rising," in December 2024, Stinson's second art show.

Stinson said her favorite work was "The Hair Show." It consisted of red-braided synthetic hair with braid jewelry wrapped around it on a blue-green acrylic paint background.

Though Stinson uses different mediums to create her art, she likes watercolor, and oil painting is easier for

paint, you're allowed to manipulate a lot more and quicker," Stinson said. "If you don't like something about oil paint you can paint over it and it won't look weird as opposed to doing it with acrylic paint because you can still see the paint underneath the other paint."

When it comes to getting inspiration for what Stinson wants to create, she looks at contemporary art rather than modern art. Contemporary artists are those who are working now while the

EMU to the Grammys: Kari Landry soars to music sucess with Akropolis

Julez DeShetler
Digital Editor

Soaring all the way from Ypsilanti to Los Angeles to the 67th Grammy Award-winning stage, Eastern Michigan University alum, and Akropolis Reed Quintet's clarinetist Kari Landry looks back on her time at EMU with gratitude.

Landry did not begin her academic career at EMU, but received her bachelor's in clarinet performance from the University of Michigan. Then she decided to attend Eastern to get her master's in arts administration while simultaneously getting her master's in clarinet performance from UM-Ann Arbor.

Dedicated to her home state, Landry returned to the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance as an intermediate lecturer teaching music entrepreneurial and leadership courses. She would remain teaching there for the next nine years.

However, during her journey at UM, in 2009 specifically, Landry co-founded the musical ensemble Akropolis Reed Quintet.

Made up of Andrew Koeppe, bass clarinetist; Ryan Reynolds, bassoonist and lecturer of bassoon at EMU; Kari Landry, clarinetist; Tim Gocklin, oboist; and Matt Landry, saxophonist, Executive Director of Akropolis' 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Kari's husband, which, as Kari Landry disclosed, the seeds of her and Matt's

relationship didn't bloom until a year after the ensemble was formed.

"We wanted our instrumentation to extend outside of band," Landry said. "So we really just stumbled across some arrangements for reed quintet and were like 'Hey you want to read this and have some fun?'"

Coming together as a musical group that started as friends first made their dynamic only the more natural, Landry said.

"I really thought I was going to be an art administrator and work for a non-profit organization," Landry said. "But then Akropolis kind of kept taking off. And it's a business that we've built as well. [Akropolis] was always the dream."

The story behind the reed quintet's name, Akropolis, is a story simple and straightforward.

"It was really just through random Google searching," Landry said. "So it was a completely random and arbitrary word."

On February 2, 2025, Koeppe, Reynolds, Gocklin, and the Landrys were joined by pianist and writer Pascal Le Boeuf and percussionist Christian Euman at the 67th Grammy Awards. They and Akropolis accepted the award for "Best Instrumental Composition for Collaborative Album" for the album "Are We Dreaming The Same Dream?"

They had learned of their nominations earlier that fall while on tour in Oregon, Landry said.

They were up against composers such as Andre 3000 with "I Swear I Really

Wanted To Make A 'Rap' Album But This Is Literally The Way The Wind Blew Me This Time"; Chick Corea & Bela Fleck with "Remembrance"; Christopher Zuar "Communion"; and Shelly Berg "At Last."

Yet, leaving California and coming back home to Michigan with a gold-plated gramophone was Akropolis Reed Quintet, Le Boeuf & Euman's instrumental composition of "Strands," the sixth track on Akropolis' sixth album, which they began working on five years earlier.

Recognizing Le Boeuf for his contemporary and jazz-like style combined with Akropolis' classical aesthetic, it made for the invention of a new genre - a classical jazz mix, Kari Landry said.

Splitting her time as a part-time lecturer, Landry has several other jobs she balances as well. From performer to businesswoman, to mother, she wouldn't ask for it any other way, she said.

"It's our own business, we're our own bosses. We built this company around the five of us as people," Landry said.

Growing up in a musical household with a bassoon-playing mother and a father who played the French horn, it was of no surprise Landry was also drawn to the art of music.

Momentarily lost in thought, Landry's eyes drift to the side as she relives a memory, "He [Landry's father] played in Motown in Detroit, playing on Marvin Gaye and Stevie

Wonder recordings and so music was in my house. Everywhere." Adding, "I think that from a young age, I knew I was going to play something in music and the clarinet just kind of stuck when I was exposed to it [at 11 years old]. I really liked it, and it was something neither of my parents played so it was new and different," Landry said.

After receiving recommendations to check out EMU's Arts Admin program, Landry met with Susan Booth a professor of the School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts and Program Director of Arts and Entertainment Management/Arts Administration.

Describing this interaction as life-changing, Landry credits Booth for recognizing that Akropolis could be a non-profit organization. Right then and there, it was confirmation she was going to enroll at Eastern, she said.

Sharing some of her experience as an Eagle, Landry said, "I was involved in the AMP! program, which is a student arts organization that puts on events. So just being in a room with so many other arts organizers was incredibly inspiring because I got to see firsthand how the arts impact the community."

While wearing the green and white, Landry was able to see how Akropolis had the potential to be more than just a music group, recalling her time here as eye-opening.

Today, Akropolis is beyond its art. Doubling as a non-profit organization, Akropolis has 120 concerts and educational events worldwide each year

and has premiered and commissioned more than 150 works by artists and composers, according to the Akropolis Reed Quintet website.

"We have a residency at three high schools in Detroit and have been doing that for about eight or nine years. The students there work with us throughout the year, and they write pieces for us that we record and premiere around the world," Landry shares.

That's not all; they also put on a summer festival in Petoskey, Michigan called the Akropolis Chamber Music Institute as well as other programs committed to community and education work, she said.

"I get as much enjoyment out of running the organization as I do performing because I see how the two feed each other very, very well."

To maintain this attitude, Landry works on passion projects to ensure the work she does continues to fuel her greater purpose.

"I do it all because it gives me a beautiful, flexible, fulfilling life where I can be a world-touring clarinetist, but also I get to do that with my family and be a mom at the same time," Landry said.

Keep an ear out for Akropolis's next collaboration with Jennifer Higdon, a classical American composer with three Grammy wins and a Pulitzer Prize for Music. This piece can be expected to be released in 2026. Recording for their next album will begin in the summer of 2025.



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Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

Inclusion Day connects people through sports

Allie Beecher
Staff Reporter

On April 1, 2025, Eastern Michigan University will be bringing people together through an exciting event called Inclusion Day.

According to event coordinator and EMU student Luke Swanson, Inclusion Day will give people of all abilities the opportunity to try playing some Paralympic sports from 5 to 7 p.m. on the third floor of the EMU Rec/IM Department.

While the event focuses on Paralympic sports, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, not just those with disabilities.

In fact, people of all abilities can benefit from trying out Paralympic or adaptive sports, said Swanson.

“I’ve been helping coach U of M’s wheelchair basketball team, and I’ve

fallen in love with it,” Swanson said. “I play all the time during practices ... One of my favorite parts is that I just get to feel closer with my friends and peers who have a disability.”

At Inclusion Day, participants will have the chance to play wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball and a sport called goalball.

“Goalball is a sport that was sort of made around individuals who are blind or have a visual impairment,” Swanson said. “It’s really interesting because most Paralympic sports have an able-bodied counterpart, like wheelchair basketball has standing basketball ... but goalball is its own sport entirely.”

The object of the game is to get a two-pound rubber ball with a bell inside into another player’s net while the other team tries to block it, said Swanson. All players wear masks during the game, so they must rely on their other senses

to win, particularly hearing and touch. It is a challenging and fun game for anyone.

“It goes really well with people who ... have a visual impairment and don’t have a visual impairment,” Swanson said.

With this event, Swanson hopes to bring greater awareness of and appreciation for Paralympic sports to EMU’s community. He pointed out that in many cases, Paralympic sports and athletes do not receive the recognition they deserve.

“Paralympic sports ... are not as known. I think one of the best ways I can spread awareness and just get people to know about these sports is to put people in wheelchairs, and put people on the ground playing volleyball and goalball,” Swanson said.

While Paralympic sports may not receive as much recognition, that

does not mean they are any less fun to play. In fact, trying out those sports is a great way for people of all abilities to have fun while also feeling more connected to one another. Swanson has experienced that first-hand.

“I’ve had a buddy who uses a wheelchair ... I’ve known him for almost my whole college career, and it wasn’t until I got the opportunity to also be alongside him with a chair that I felt that connection. We got to play that sport, and it’s so much fun.”

In the future, Swanson hopes to bring even more Paralympic and adaptive sports to EMU’s community.

“I would love to have any Paralympic sport involved,” he said.

To learn more about Inclusion Day, contact Swanson at lswanso4@emich.edu or call 616-633-8617. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to sign up here.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: March 25-31

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Brace yourself for another action-packed week as Eastern Michigan athletics charges into late March with an exciting lineup of must-see events. From baseball games and high-stakes tennis matchups to track & field competitions and golf tournaments, EMU athletes are set to compete at the highest level. Whether you’re cheering from the stands in Ypsilanti or following along remotely, here’s a breakdown of the can’t-miss events across multiple sports this week:

Men’s Golf at Gopher Tommie Invitational

On March 24-25, the men’s golf team heads to Litchfield Park, Arizona, for the Gopher Tommie Invitational. This all-day event will feature top-tier golfers, and the Eagles are ready to make their mark on the national stage.

Baseball at Michigan

On March 25 at 4 p.m., the baseball team travels to Ann Arbor for a high-stakes matchup against Michigan. This non-conference battle promises to be thrilling as both teams look to continue their early-season success.

Men’s & Women’s Track & Field at Raleigh Relays

From March 27-29, the men’s and women’s track & field teams head to Raleigh, North Carolina, to compete in the prestigious Raleigh Relays. This all-day event will see some of the best athletes from across the country, and the Eagles are eager to showcase their speed and strength.

Men’s & Women’s Track & Field at Texas Relays

Also, from March 27-29, EMU’s track & field teams will compete at the Texas Relays in Austin, Texas. This high-profile event will feature fierce competition, and the Eagles are set to take on some of the top talent in the country.

Men’s & Women’s Track & Field at Bobcat Invitational & Multi

On March 27-29, the men’s and women’s track & field teams will also be at the Bobcat Invitational & Multi in San Marcos, Texas. Another action-packed event on the track, the Eagles will look to build on their momentum in this competitive setting.

Women’s Golf at Chattanooga Classic

From March 28 to 30, the women’s golf team will travel to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the Chattanooga Classic. This all-day event will feature top golf programs, and EMU is ready to compete at the highest level.

Tennis vs Western Michigan

On March 28 at 1 p.m., the tennis team returns home to Ypsilanti for a crucial conference match against Western Michigan. The Eagles will be looking to defend their home court and take another step toward the top of the MAC standings.

Baseball at Ohio

On March 28 at 3 p.m., the baseball team travels to Athens, Ohio, for a key conference game against Ohio. This matchup is vital as both teams push for positioning in the MAC standings.

Baseball at Ohio

On March 29 at 2 p.m., the baseball team continues their series against Ohio in Athens. Another big game, the Eagles will be looking to bounce back with a crucial victory.

Lacrosse at Central Michigan

On March 30 at noon, the lacrosse team heads to Mount Pleasant, Michigan, for a pivotal road game against Central Michigan. This matchup will be key for the Eagles as they aim to continue their strong season.

Baseball at Ohio

On March 30 at 1 p.m., the baseball team wraps up their series against Ohio in Athens with a crucial final game. The Eagles are looking to finish strong and secure the series win.

Tennis vs Miami

On March 30 at 1 p.m., the tennis team faces Miami in Ypsilanti. This exciting home matchup will be an essential test for the Eagles as they look to dominate on their home court.

With so many thrilling events happening across various sports, ensure you don’t miss out on the action! Stay updated with The Eastern Echo for the latest news, scores, and updates on EMU athletics. Cheer on your Eagles as they give it their all this week!

Eastern Michigan baseball scores record 19 runs, in final game against Miami

Hugh Thorp
Sports Reporter

Oestrike Stadium? More like Logan Hugo’s (Essexville, Mich./Essexville Garber) playground.

The senior outfielder from Essexville, Michigan turned in one of the performances of the campaign in front of the Ypsilanti faithful on Saturday afternoon; falling just a triple short of completing the cycle while adding two home runs and six RBI’s to the statsheet in Eastern Michigan’s dominant victory over Miami, 19-12.

Things started off slowly for the Eagles, as coming off back to back losses in the previous day’s doubleheader the green and white found themselves already down 3-0 once they stepped up to the plate to bat in the bottom of the opening inning.

However, a four run first inning and a nine run

second inning quickly set the tone that Eastern Michigan would not accept being swept in their first full series at home.

“There’s events in your life,Äcan’t determine what those events are, but you can determine your response, and ultimately that determines the outcome,” Eagles head coach Robbie Britt said about his team’s sizzling start to the game.

“So for us to respond again like we did last weekend in a game three situation,Äreally a big deal,” Britt said.

Eastern Michigan held a 13-3 lead heading into the top of the third inning and did not look back the rest of the way - scoring six additional runs to reach their highest total of runs this season, and the most for the school in nearly two full calendar years.

While Hugo was the star of the show for the Eagles, Bruce Jellison (Hartland, Mich./Hartland/Wabash

Valley) also had a big day going 4-5 at the plate with a double and two RBI’s, along with Brendan Kleiman (Olney, Md./Sherwood/Frederick C.C.), Ben Schecterman (Aurora, Ohio/Aurora/Ohio State), and Connor Walsh (Mattawan, Mich./Mattawan) all tallying multiple RBI’s on the day as well.

Fischer Hendershot (Flushing, Mich./Flint Powers) was credited with the win from the mound, his first of the season, and the Eagles as a whole moved to 10-10 (6-3 MAC) on the campaign; Miami falling to 12-11 (7-2 MAC).

Next up, Eastern Michigan travels down the road to Ann Arbor for a date with the Michigan Wolverines - the first of two pivotal matchups with the maize and blue over the next 15 days. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m., and viewers can listen to the game live on Eagle All-Access.



Detroit Lions re-sign Pat O’Connor to boost depth

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

The team announced Tuesday, March 18, 2025, that the Detroit Lions continue reinforcing their defensive front, bringing back former Eastern Michigan University standout Pat O’Connor on a one-year deal.

O’Connor, who initially signed with Detroit during training camp last year, played a crucial role in the team’s defensive rotation. Despite starting the season on the practice squad, he was called into action following a series of injuries that sidelined key defensive linemen, including Aidan Hutchinson, Alim McNeill, Marcus Davenport, Kyle Peko, and Mekhi Wingo. O’Connor appeared in 12 games, tallying 18 tackles and one sack.

Lions general manager Brad Holmes emphasized the importance of depth during the NFL Combine in February, pointing to O’Connor as an example of how mid-season signings can become essential for a team’s success.

Holmes clarified that adding reliable depth remains a priority, mainly after the Lions battled significant injuries throughout the 2024 season.

Initially drafted by the Lions in 2017, O’Connor spent most of his professional career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers before returning to Detroit. His re-signing makes him the 13th free agent the Lions have retained this offseason as the team looks to maintain continuity and stability on defense.

In addition to O’Connor, the Lions also announced the return of tight end Shane Zylstra and finalized a deal with running back Craig Reynolds. The moves come as the team prepares for a 2025 season that could begin without McNeill, who is recovering from a late-season knee injury. With McNeill’s status uncertain, the Lions have worked to reinforce the interior defensive line, re-signing Levi Onwuzurike and adding Roy Lopez in free agency.

As Detroit continues to build for the upcoming season, maintaining experienced depth remains a top priority.



'Opus' is a flawed but promising horror about a cult of fame

Frank Remski
Review Columnist

In A24’s latest horror film, “Opus,” an aspiring journalist got a golden opportunity to preview an iconic pop star’s first new record in 30 years. However, the opportunity quickly turned sour as she discovered said star was running a murderous cult. Throughout, she battled to escape with her life and a story.

The film starred Ayo Edebiri as the journalist, Ariel, and John Malkovich as the pop star, Moretti. “Opus” was the feature-length directorial debut of Mark Anthony Green, who also wrote the film.

Highs

On a sensory level, “Opus” was nearly perfect. Its visuals were saturated and warm, creating a stark contrast to the dark horrors. The cult’s base was set in the middle of a desert, a setting that acted both as a beautiful

oasis and as an isolating death trap. Moretti’s character shined through in the fashion of the film, with luxurious and extravagant outfits fit for a diva.

Musically, both the film’s score and in-universe music were great. The score was lively and suspenseful, making use of non-digital sounding instruments to give it both a tense and spiritual feeling fitting of a cult. Moretti’s in-universe songs were catchy and layered with a grand sound. It was believable that he would be such an iconic star.

These all helped elevate already great horror. “Opus” used its scares somewhat sparingly, making them count when they happened. The film especially utilized disgusting fears well. Throughout, it maintained a tense, captivating pacing.

Lows



The script was the weakest part of “Opus.” The mystery and twists were weakened by a poor use of planting and payoff. There were elements planted that never got satisfyingly fulfilled and reveals that weren’t properly set up. The plot also had a few logical gaps.

The characters were flat as well. Ariel had a solid setup, but her arc went in a disappointingly predictable direction. “Opus” was a story about isolation, and Ariel was surrounded by people who sought to control or kill her- this should have cracked her character open in surprising ways. The side characters were also generally one-note, with the exception of Moretti who was both charismatic and frightening.

The weaknesses became

especially clear in an overly drawn out, unrealistic ending. The motives revealed were weak and nonsensical. The cult element broke its believability. The ending over-explained the entire film and would have been more effective if it were a shorter epilogue.

Verdict

Green’s directorial debut was promising. With improvement, he may one day direct a great movie. “Opus” was a gripping film with an outstanding sensory direction, but the script held it back from its full potential. Although deeply flawed, it was overall an entertaining horror about fame as a literal cult.

Rating: 6 out of 10

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

'Inaccurate Conceptions,' an EMU student-directed play, is humorous

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

“Inaccurate Conceptions,” directed by Trenten Hargrove and written by Sharon Reichert, was presented at the Eastern Michigan Theatre on March 18. This play, written and directed by students, was full of humorous moments and kept the audience laughing. This was a 20-minute play that was beautifully done.

This play is about comprehending how a lack of context can turn into drama between friends. It features dramatic irony even though one does

not know what is being said. The play is about four friends: Lisa, played by Alex Beverly, Angela, played by Tessa Hanrath, Owen, played by Asa Price, and Joanne, played by Annabelle Rickert. The gossip concerns one of the couple, which Owen misunderstands, which turns into an argument about abortion between him and Lisa. During this altercation, Owen tries to break up with Angela, which he has difficulty doing.

Highs

The highlight of this EMU play was the humorous moments because it captured the perception of each character’s sense of humor. Joanne was entertaining because she realized

that Owen was technically cheating on Angela with Lisa. That was hilarious because she screamed perfectly in the kitchen when she found out. This had the audience laughing.

Another highlight was the simple play. It was easy to understand because it was common for college students. However, misunderstandings were more prominent than expected. The dialogue between the characters was entertaining and kept the audience engaged the whole time.

Angela’s personality is perfect because she portrays herself as a ditsy college student. She was oblivious but hilarious on accident. She acted like she didn’t understand what was happening and made random comments that added

to the conversation.

The play’s ending brought together how Owen was arguing over something that turned out to be a couple on a reality show. This was iconic and surprised Owen; the look on his face was hilarious. This shows how genuine misunderstanding can turn a conversation into something completely different.

Lows

There were minimal lows; the main low was how short the play was. It was an entertaining, shorter, simple play, but there could have been more drama. This drama could have brought together a greater understanding of why Owen wanted to break up with Angela. The

relationship between Lisa and Owen should have been more detailed and explained further.

Verdict

“Inaccurate Misconceptions” was directed well and captured every humorous moment. The student actors performed flawlessly, showing each character’s true personality.

Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

Japanese Breakfast’s ‘For Melancholy Brunettes (& sad women)’ has a dreamy sonic atmosphere

Frank Remski
Review Columnist

The indie pop band Japanese Breakfast recently dropped their fourth studio album “For Melancholy Brunettes (& sad women)” on March 21, 2025. True to its title, the record was a dreamy, indie pop album dealing with melancholia. It was preceded by the singles “Orlando In Love” and “Mega Circuit.”

Japanese Breakfast’s last album, “Jubilee,” was released in 2021. Also in 2021, the band’s frontwoman, Michelle Zauner, became a bestselling author with her memoir “Crying In H Mart.” “For Melancholy Brunettes” was produced by Blake Mills.

Highs

“For Melancholy Brunettes” had an atmospheric quality to its production. Making heavy use of guitar along orchestral-sounding sounding instrumentation, the album’s sounds were immersive with a sleepy, relaxing quality. In Japanese Breakfast’s discography, it was most comparable to their second record “Soft Sounds From Another Planet.”

Zauner’s vocal and lyrical

delivery added to the beautiful sonic atmosphere. Her voice was light and soft, nearly blending in with some of the instrumentation. The lyrics were poetic and literary. For example, consider the song “Leda,” “The ocean in view / I’m thinking of all the Grecian Gods / The men they all played to get what they want.”

The highlights of the album were its lead single “Orlando In Love,” a sea-themed love song that perfectly set the mood for the album, “Picture Window,” a moody pop song on the edge of heartbreak; “Leda,” a contemplative Greek myth-infused guitar ballad; and “Honey Water,” an energetic shoegaze-y track about a frustrating relationship.

Lows

In a way, “For Melancholy Brunettes” felt unfinished, needing a couple more lyrics and longer run time on some songs for more variety. Most of the songs were barely three minutes long with the exceptions of “Honey Water” and “Little Girl.” It made the songs come and go too fast to be fully appreciated or fully satisfying.

And while the lyricism was good, it was also too sparse. Many of the songs’ stories were underdeveloped and

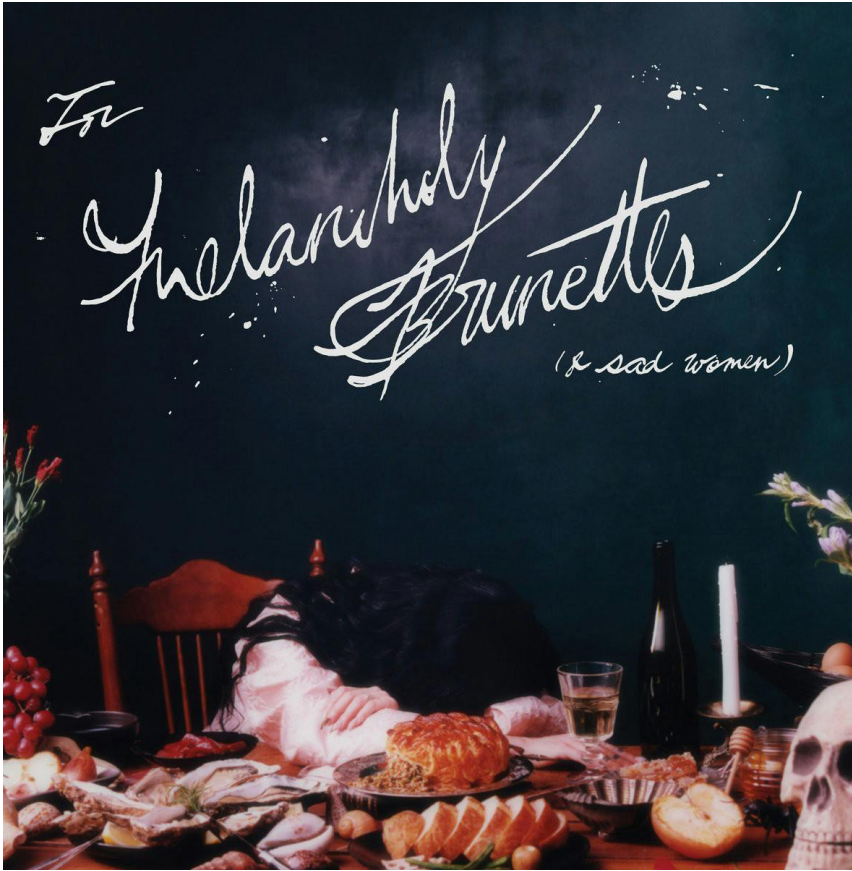
under-explained, their structures more akin to poems than a typical song. This made the stories and descriptions on the songs too vague. For example, the longest song, “Honey Water,” which was nearly five minutes long, had only two verses, a chorus sung once, and a refrain said twice.

Verdict

“For Melancholy Brunettes (& sad woman)” would best be enjoyed on a quiet night by the sea. A sleepy and whimsical album, like a good dream. However, it was a good dream that someone wakes up from too soon, given how short the songs were. There are worse problems for an album to have. After all, doesn’t wanting more of a thing mean said thing is good?

Rating: 8 out of 10

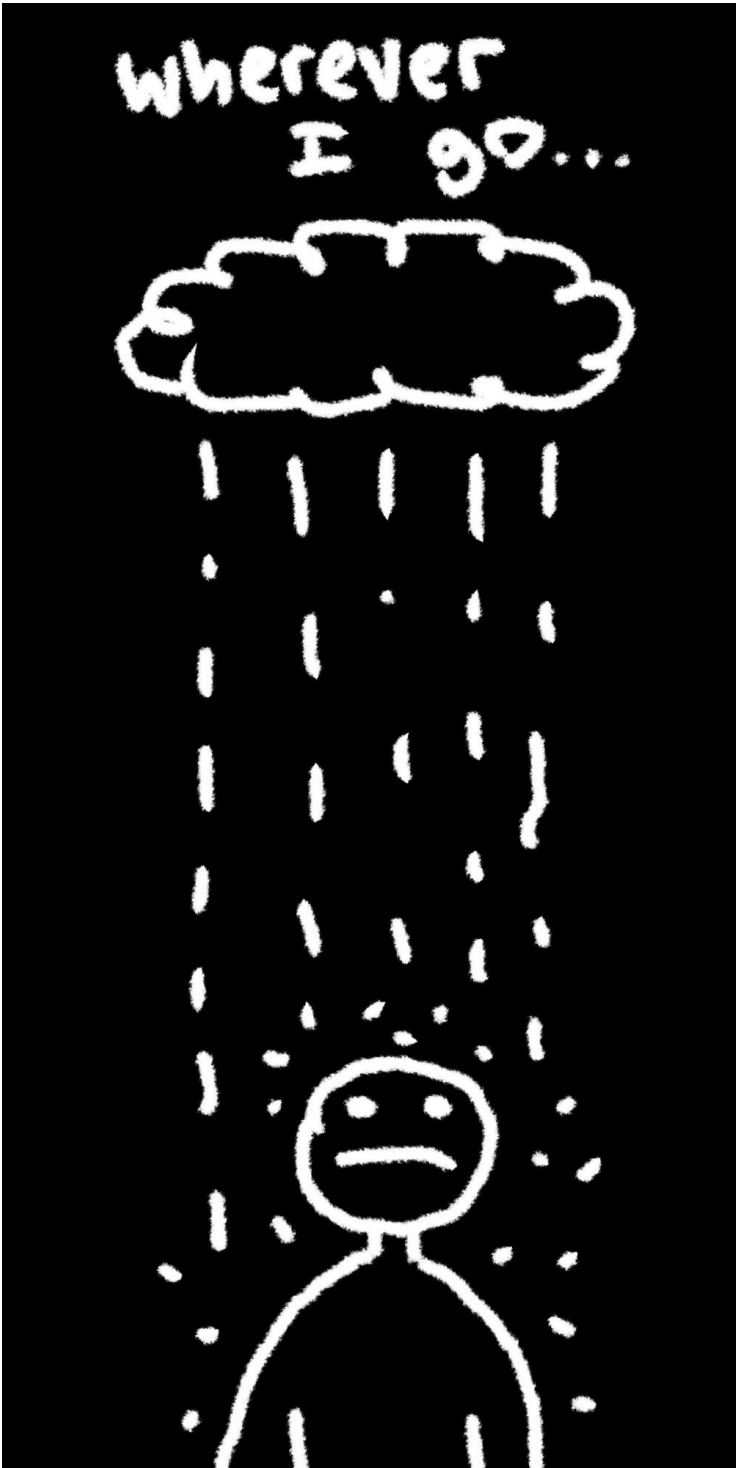
Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.



How I get Ideas
Julia Bartlett
Comics Artist



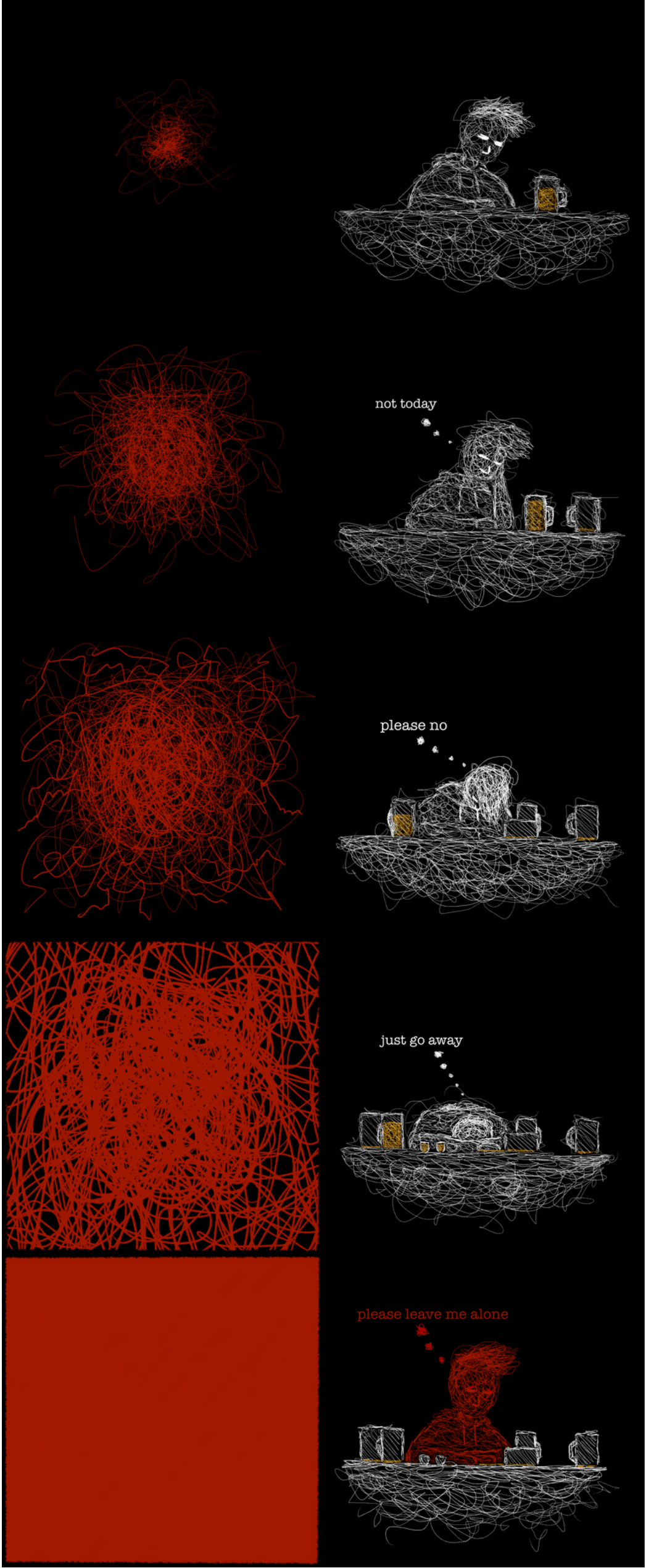
Engravings VIII
Gideon the Ghost
Comics Artist



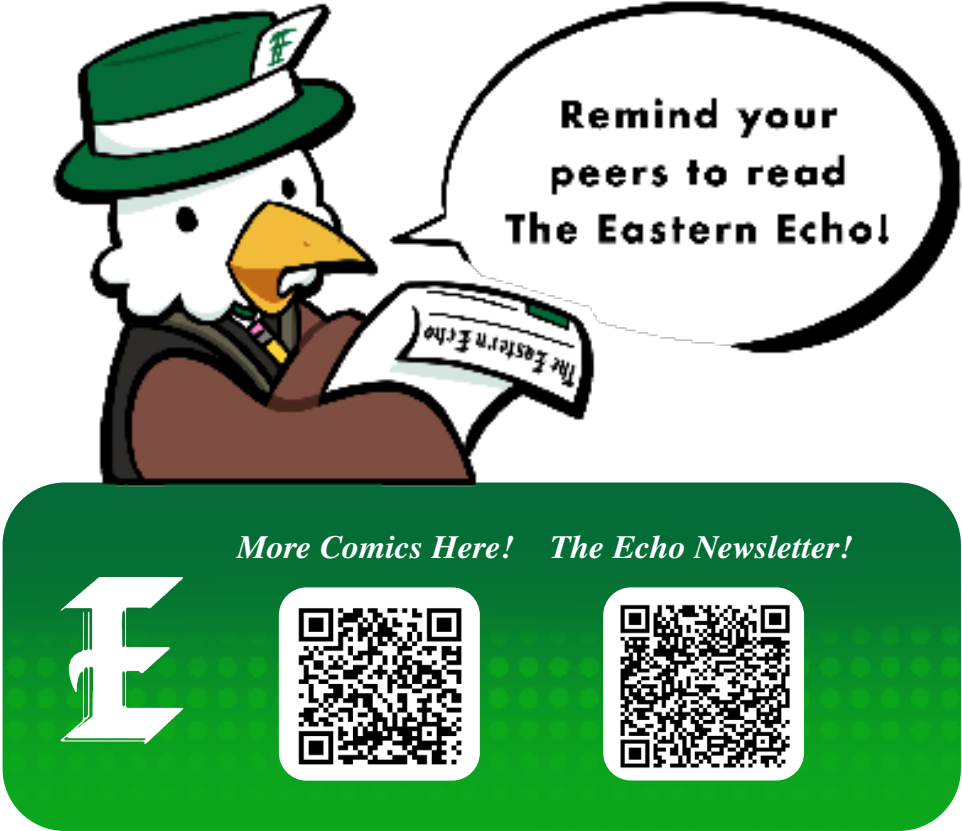
Jargon
Rylee Curley
Comics Artist



Complexities
Gideon the Ghost
Comics Artist



Scoop says...



Eagle-Con 2025

Eagle-Con 2025 took place in the Student Center ballroom on Tuesday, March 18. The event hosted by Campus Life included vendors with student artists and businesses, drag performances, live music from the Anime Music Club, and a cosplay competition. A separate game room was also hosted by EMU Esports and Dungeons & Dreadnoughts, as well as a sensory room by EMU AMP!. Students were also encouraged to complete a scavenger hunt to win prizes.



ABOVE: Cosplayers at Eagle-Con 2025 on Tuesday, March 18 in the Student Center ballroom. Max Taylor/The Eastern Echo Kaleb Stanley/The Eastern Echo



ABOVE: The owners and artists of Kam Komiks selling original comics and prints at their booth for Eagle-Con 2025, which was held on Tuesday, March 18 at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center. Kaleb Stanley/The Eastern Echo



AT RIGHT: Drag queen Seasin gave a fierce performance at Eagle-Con 2025 cosplaying as Cruella de Vil in the Student Center ballroom on Tuesday, March 18. Max Taylor/The Eastern Echo



ABOVE: The Anime Music Club performing at Eagle-Con 2025 in the Student Center ballroom on Tuesday, March 18. Max Taylor/The Eastern Echo



AT LEFT: Dani, Ella, and Rylee running the Amp the Arts booth at Eagle-Con 2025, which was held on Tuesday, March 18 at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center. Kaleb Stanley/The Eastern Echo



Check out the full gallery available on our website!